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Message Text

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65
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10

OMB-01 SAJ-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /087 W
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O R 252205Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 111
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
EUCOM
CINCUSAFE
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 5770

E.O. 11652: N/A
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SUBJECT: REACTION OF TURKISH LEADERS TO HOUSE VOTE

REF ANKARA 5767

1. FOLLOWING IS PUBLIC REACTION BY SEVERAL TURKISH LEADERS TO THE VOTE IN THE HOUSE ON THE ARMS EMBARGO. NOTE THAT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WERE MADE PRIOR TO THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINED IN REFTEL.

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2. ACCORDING TO A TELEVISION NEWS BROADCAST FRIDAY

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EVENING (JULY 25), REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT WAS ASKED FOR REACTION TO THE HOUSE VOTE BY NEWSMEN IN ROMANIA,WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY THE GUEST OF PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. ECEVIT, IN REPLY, DREW A PARALLEL WITH THE "PUBLIC DEBT" REGIME IMPOSED ON TURKEY FOLLOWING WORLD WAR I. ECEVIT REPORTEDLY SAID: "DURING THE PUBLIC DEBT REGIME THEY USED TO CONTROL US BECAUSE OF OUR DEBT. NOW THE SUBJECT MATTER IS OUR BEING CONTROLLED--CONTROL OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY--BECAUSE WE ARE A CREDITOR." ECEVIT POINTED OUT THAT TURKEY IS A CREDITOR OF THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF ARMS WHICH SHE HAS PAID FOR. HE SAID THAT THE DESIRE TO CONTROL TURKEY THROUGH THIS CREDIT HAS CREATED IMPORTANT QUESTIONS. HE ADDED, ACCORDING TO THE TELEVISION REPORT: "THIS IS A MATTER OF GENERAL POLICY. IT CAN BE RESOLVED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GENERAL POLICY, NOT AS A SEPARATE, INDEPENDENT PROBLEM."

3. THE SAME BROADCAST ALSO REPORTED A STATEMENT BY FERRUH BOZBEYLI, CHAIRMAN OF THE OPPOSITION DEMOCRAT PARTY. BOZBEYLI REPORTEDLY ASSERTED THAT THE EMBARGO IS CONTINUING AS A RESULT OF THE PASSIVITY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. "THE GOVERNMENT SAYS TO AMERICA THAT 'WE ARE GOING TO DECIDE ABOUT YOU. COME AND LET US DISCUSS HOW WE SHALL MAKE THIS DECISION'. THE AMERICANS, SAYING 'THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO IN ANY CASE', DONT EVEN RESPOND TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CALL."

4. IN OTHER REPORTED REACTION, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALPASLAN TURKES, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PARTY, CALLED THE HOUSE MOVE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS IN TERMS OF THE INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO TELEVISION NEWS FRIDAY EVENING, TURKES SAID AMERICA WOULD NOT BENEFIT BY PERMITTING THE DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES. THE AMERICAN SLIDE TOWARD ENMITY, HE SAID, AGAIN BROUGHT TO MIND THE PRINCIPLE OF TURKISH NATIONALISM THAT "TURKS HAVE NO FRIENDS BUT THE TURKS".
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5. THE SAME BROADCAST SAID THAT HALIL TUNC, PRESIDENT OF THE TURK-IS LABOR UNION CONFEDERATION, DECLARED THAT TURKEY MUST REVIEW HER FOREIGN POLICY. HE CRITICIZED THE UNITED STATES FOR LINKING THE CYPRUS ISSUE WITH MILITARY AID AS A MEANS OF PRESSURE AND DECLARED THAT THE TURKISH NATION HAS NEVER SUBMITTED TO PRESSURE. HE POINTED OUT THE NECESSITY TO REMAIN

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MILITARILY AND ECONOMICALLY STRONG AND PLEDGED THAT TURKISH WORKERS ARE PREPARED TO MAKE ANY KIND OF SACRIFICE TO ACHIEVE THIS.

6. ANOTHER LABOR LEADER, KEMAL TURKLER, PRESIDENT OF THE LEFTWING DISK (CONFEDERATION OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR UNIONS), WAS CITED ON TELEVISION NEWS AS SAYING THAT TURKEY'S ONLY CHANCE TO SECURE HER DEFENSES WILL BE TO WITHDRAW FROM NATO AND CENTO. HE URGED THAT TURKEY ABROGATE HER BI-LATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.S. IN LIGHT OF THE HOUSE VOTE. HE ALSO RECOMMENDED SIGNING A SERIES OF NON-AGGRESSION PACTS WITH TURKEY'S NEIGHBORS.
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